



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/696,739  
Filing Date: October 28, 2003  
Applicant: Rex Miller et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3677  
Examiner: Flemming Saether  
Title: FASTENER FOR SPANNING A LARGE GAP  
Attorney Docket: 0275M-000650

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Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed January 27, 2006, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

Applicants hereby petition under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Final Office Action and includes a fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) with this response for such extension of time, which is now due May 27, 2006.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 15 of this paper.